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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/738,194	12/15/2000	Emmanuel Vyers	NCP3-E42	1141

7590 08/19/2002

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EXAMINER

KRISHNAMURTHY, RAMESH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3753

DATE MAILED: 08/19/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/738,194	VYERS ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Ramesh Krishnamurthy	3753

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 July 2002.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 9 - 18 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 9 - 18 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

 a) All b) Some * c) None of:

 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.

6) Other: _____.

This office action is responsive to amendment filed on 07/08/02.

Claims 9 – 18 are pending.

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claims 9 – 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Claim 9 recites the limitation “substituting said valve position error feedback signal for said valve position feedback signal” in lines 17 and 18. This limitation constitutes new matter since such matter has not been disclosed in the application as filed originally. Claim 14 recites the limitation “substituting said valve position error feedback signal for said valve position feedback signal” in lines 15 and 16. This limitation constitutes new matter since such matter has not been disclosed in the application as filed originally.

In this office action, this limitation has been taken to mean a repeated application of the valve position feedback signal.

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

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4. Claims 14 – 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

5. Claim 14 recites the limitation "said pressure sensor" in line 6. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

6. Claim 14 recites the limitation "generating a step command signal responsive to said flow sensor signal and a tool logic signal, said step command signal generating comprising applying a pressure control algorithm" in lines 4 – 6. It is not clear as to how "applying a pressure control algorithm" to a flow sensor signal would allow the fluid flow to be controlled, rendering the claims indefinite.

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

9. Claims 9 – 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the prior art cited by the applicants in Figs. 1 – 3 in view of Fitzgerald et al.

The prior art cited by the applicants discloses the invention claimed with the exception of having a valve position feedback to the controller. The patent to Fitzgerald et al. discloses that it is known in the art to use such a valve position feedback for the purpose of obtaining improved valve control. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide for a valve position feed back signal to the controller for the purpose of obtaining improved valve control as recognized by Fitzgerald et al. The system disclosed by Fitzgerald et al. is inherently capable of repeated application of the valve position signal to the summing means to eventually position the valve at a desired position. Additionally, the signal being generated by the element (12) in Fitzgerald et al. (initially in a cycle) is the direction/speed command signal that serves to position the valve.

It is noted that the device according to the combination of Prior art disclosed in Figs. 1 – 3 and Fitzgerald et al., as set forth above, is inherently capable of performing the method recited in claims 9 – 18.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 07/08/02 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant is essentially arguing that the reference of Fitzgerald et al. lacks the step of providing a direction/speed command signal. It is the examiner's position that the system disclosed by Fitzgerald et al. does indeed support such a step in that the signal being generated by the element (12) in Fitzgerald et al. (initially in a cycle) is

the direction/speed command signal that serves to position the valve. In Fitzgerald et al. also, as in the instant application, the step command signal and the direction/speed command signal are two separate signals. The additional characteristics pertaining to Fitzgerald et al. mentioned by the Applicant in paragraphs c and d on page 10 of the response have no bearing on the applicability of Fitzgerald et al. to meet the instant claims.

10. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ramesh Krishnamurthy whose telephone number is (703) 305 - 5295. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael P. Buiz, can be reached on (703) 308 - 0871. The fax phone

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308 - 7765.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308 - 0861.

Ramesh Krishnamurthy, Ph. D., PE
Examiner
Art Unit 3753
August 15, 2002


Michael Powell Ruiz
Supervisory Patent Examiner
US Patent & Trademark Office

8/16/02